

Guiding Principles for Public Health

Mission: To achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities throughout King County by providing public health services which promote health and prevent disease.

Improved Public Health Practice

1. Elimination of inequalities in health associated with socio-economic status, race/ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation.	The Public Health Department's priority is to promote health and prevent disease among populations who experience economic marginalization and/or discrimination.
2. Science and data-informed practice.	Strive to use data to make program, policy, and budget decisions and prioritize activities; strengthen our research based capacity.
3. Accountability in Public Health Practice.	Practice evidence-based Public Health driven by outcomes. Maintain and monitor an active and changing list of public health practice outcomes. Track issues via a newly established public health practitioner's group.
4. Strengthen community partnerships.	Power and decision-making shared with the community for both defining priorities for public health policies and for planning, implementing, and evaluating health improvements.

Improved Business Practice

1. Integrate departmental and cross-departmental programs and services to leverage resources and achieve efficiencies.	Continuously examine cross-departmental, divisional, and regional opportunities to share information, resources and people.
2. Increase organizational clarity. Clearly define roles and responsibilities at all levels of the department.	Ensure every employee understands their contribution to the accomplishment of the Public Health mission.
3. Streamline business approaches and processes using technology.	With impetus from the implementation of a new management information system and a focus on business planning, improve and standardize business policy and practices.
4. Diminish bureaucracy: challenge traditional ways of doing business.	Consistently examine process and product with the intent to increase efficiency, effectiveness and innovativeness.
5. Accountability in business operations.	Formally identify annual departmental outcomes and measures necessary to accomplish the department's mission. Monitor monthly and amend as needed. Pay rigorous attention to revenue forecasting and budget management.
6. Diversity: departmental support for an environment that promotes employee development and values the diversity of their skills, expertise, experience, opinions and beliefs.	Consistently follow the Department's standards of conduct statement: continual and active implementation of policies and programs to support diversity and employee training and development.
7. Increase and improve communications to employees as well as external customers regarding the Public Health Department's role/responsibilities and public health programs, activities, issues, and challenges.	Identify opportunities and strategies for effective communication, update a plan for public health communications, and implement it.

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